MEMOIR

OF

Henry Augustine Washington,

LATE PROFESSOR OF

HISTORY, POLITICAL ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW,

IN

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE,

VIRGINIA,

BY THE RIGHT REV. J. JOHNS, D. D.

For
Dr. John Buckler
with grateful remembrance from
Mrs. H. A. Washington

Feb: 1859.

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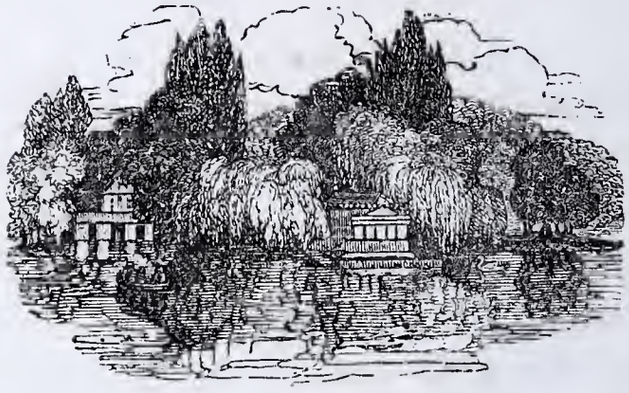

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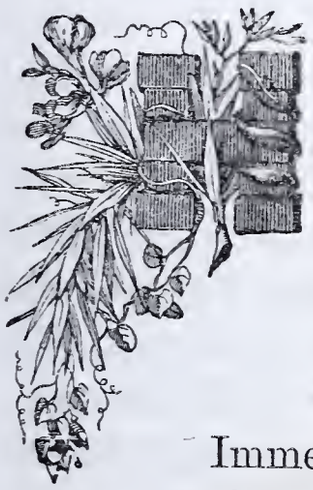

HENRY AUGUSTINE, son of Lawrence and Sarah T. Washington, was born at Heywood, in Westmoreland county, Virginia, on the 24th of August, 1820, and died on the 28th of February, 1858, in the City of Washington, D. C.

Immediately after his decease, brief obituaries appeared in several of the papers of his native State and in the National Intelligencer. A more extended sketch of his life and character is, however, due to the memory of one of so much worth, and is much desired by his many devoted friends. To attempt this deserved tribute and to minister to a wish so natural and proper, is the design of this more special notice, yet this is not its only object. The humble offering laid on his grave, whilst it serves as a sacred memorial of affectionate respect for the departed, may, it is hoped, prove salutary in its influence on those who admired and loved him whilst living, and who mourn his premature and distressing removal. For though his day was short and its close sad, and its transient hours dimmed and disturbed by extraordinary sufferings—yet, there arose light in the midst of that darkness; the painful process was with purifying power; and, if his sun "went down at noon," it had previously

shone in a clear sky and brightened his path with a line of light and a glow of genial hope. The path in which he, with all his severe trials, found support and solace abundantly provided, should not fail to commend itself to our confident and diligent and persevering pursuit.

The boyhood of Mr. Washington was passed at the place of his nativity under the supervision of his estimable parents, and in the midst of a family and social circle, partaking of the intelligence and refinement by which that section of Virginia has always been distinguished. The education of a youth under such circumstances is, so far as mind and morals are concerned, incomparably preferable to any training promised by the least exceptionable boarding schools. Nothing can compensate for the loss of that influence which is experienced amid the associations and intercourse of a kind and cultivated home. It is the true and perhaps the only nursery of those delicate sympathies and generous habits which furnish standards for the engraftment of the virtues of manhood, and the development of the fruit of genuine patriotism.

These advantages were enjoyed by the subject of this sketch until he reached an age when his further improvement required other means than Westmoreland afforded, and in 1834 he was placed at the college in Georgetown. Of the kindness with which he was there treated, he always spoke very gratefully; but though he carried away with him a number of premiums, he entertained no very favorable impression of the benefit he derived from the course of instruction. From Georgetown he was

transferred to Princeton, and entered the Sophomore class in the fall of 1836. Here he remained for three years, and graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1839, with credit to himself. For the exact sciences he had no particular fondness. This he ascribed to want of due preparation for the mathematical course. But perhaps his devoting himself specially to the other branches, is to be referred to the native inclination of his mind which was literary rather than scientific, as his subsequent pursuits very clearly indicate. Mr. Washington was a zealous member of the American Whig Society, the advantages of which he highly appreciated, and always referred to it in terms of strong commendation as an invaluable accessory to the college.

Upon leaving Princeton Mr. Washington returned to Westmoreland to renew for a time the social intercourse with his family and friends which he always enjoyed with peculiar zest, but of which he had been deprived, except at very short intervals, during his college course.

The period had now arrived for commencing his professional studies. The Bar was his choice. At Fredericksburg, about a day's ride from the residence of his father, there was a private Law School of high and deserved reputation, conducted with great ability and signal success, by a gentleman of Virginia, distinguished as a profound and accomplished Jurist, universally honored for his sterling integrity, and beloved for the mild and attractive excellencies of his Christian character. His native State appreciated, and long and in various ways profited by his sterling work. By the Board of

Visitors of the University he was appointed Professor of Law, and continued to fill that chair till he thought proper to resign. The Legislature elected him as one of the Judiciary, and he held the office till it expired by the action of the Convention to revise the Constitution. When that Convention was about to limit the tenure of the office of a Judge by specification of age, the proposal was handsomely waived because it would have prevented the election of Judge Lomax. Under the change which gave the choice of the Judiciary to the people, he was elected without opposition, and continued to perform the laborious duties of his extensive district until his abated physical strength decided him to seek release from the almost incessant and very onerous services inseparable from his official position. In his honorable retirement he continues to receive the veneration and love of the intelligent and grateful community which he served so long and faithfully and yet adorns and blesses.

To avail himself of the advantages of this school, Mr. Washington became a resident of Fredericksburg till he had completed the course of study preparatory to practice. On his admission to the Bar, though there were many considerations in favor of his settling in the immediate vicinity of his family and personal friends—yet, conscious as he no doubt was of that professional power which needs not stoop to the use of questionable means to obtain employment, or resort to unworthy expedients to secure success, but instead of having to cater humiliatingly—for its own action, is sure to be solicited by those who require its assistance, he ju-

diciously concluded to go where the people and the business were, and bide his time. Richmond was the place selected for his professional career. It was well chosen, for here were all the refinement which his cultivated taste desired, and every influence calculated to stimulate to literary and professional improvement. In that city Mr. Washington found a congenial home, and was in agreeable sympathy with the intelligent society by which he was soon understood and truly appreciated. It was moreover a growing city in its trade and manufactures, and of course in wealth and population. The opening was an attractive one, and those who best knew Mr. Washington's general character and business capabilities, were most sanguine as to his success. This indeed might be temporarily retarded by his unaffected modesty and unobtrusiveness, but these are qualities which may delay, but do not defeat advancement even in a profession which is conducted by conflict, or the Supreme Court of the United States would never have been dignified by its present eminent chief, or his illustrions predecessor.

But, so far as Richmond was concerned, the honorable aspirations of Mr. Washington and the fond hopes of his friends were destined to early disappointment. His constitution had suffered, it is supposed, from the exposure of a room which he occupied at Fredericksburg during the intense heat of summer. The impairment of his health now became so obvious, that, yielding to the solicitations of those in whose judgment he had confidence, he consented to forego the social and professional ad-

vantages of a city residence, and seek the invigorating air and exercise which he could enjoy in connexion with a country practice. With this view, and influenced by strong local and personal attachments, he retired to a farm in King George county.

In the ordinary routine of the country courts, the opportunities for special distinction are rare. The impression made by Mr. Washington, and his hold on the community, are however unmistakably indicated by his choice as the elector. of his district in the Presidental campaign of 1848. This appointment furnished a fit occasion for the exercise of his peculiar powers, and he conducted the canvass with admirable address and unusual ability. He stooped to none of the arts of the demagogue —made no appeal to popular prejudices—gave way to no passionate defamation of his opponents and their candidates—indulged in none of the low wit and practiced none of the degrading buffoonery which stump speakers employ to please and sway the masses. All such dishonorable, dishonest and demoralizing expedients he utterly abhorred. His political creed was the result of careful study and intelligent conviction. He had confidence in *truth as sufficient for itself* and needing no meretricious finery to commend it, or dextrous finesse for its advancement. In his political address, his aim was to seize upon and show with distinctness the measures and policy of existing parties, to sift them to their principles, to make manifest their bearing and influence upon the purity and permanence of our republican institutions—and so, on the position and prosperity of the nation.

As a speaker, Mr. Washington was self-possessed, calm and deliberate, yet earnest and impressive, clear in his conceptions and lucid in their exposition. His elocution was free and animated, never hurried or confused, though at times perhaps vehement. In his choice and use of words, his taste determined him in favor of the saxon elements of our language, in its simplest structure. With all these advantages, a clear head, an agreeable voice, a good personal presence, a manly spirit, and a patriotic heart—Mr. Washington was indeed a man for the people. He never addressed them without having their respectful attention, or ceased without their regret; so honorably and ably did he acquit himself during this campaign, that at its close, his fame was sounded in every precinct, and the services which he had rendered were so gratifying to his party that he might have commanded any position at their disposal.

The agreeable excitement of this canvass, and the flattering popularity which it gained him may have biassed him in favor of political life, and tempted him to comply with the urgent request to allow himself to be nominated as a candidate for congress. Happily, however, events were occurring elsewhere which gave a different direction to his pursuits, and determined the cast and character of his subsequent course. The venerable college of William and Mary was about to be reorganized. In the appointment of a new Faculty, the Board of Visitors elected Mr. Washington to the chair of History, Political Economy and International Law. The branches assigned to him were congenial to his

taste, and in keeping with his previous study. The duties of his professorship would not exceed what his improved though not re-established health justified him in assuming. The mild climate and comparatively retired position of Williamsburg, and its very attractive society, were to him, considerations not to be lightly estimated. After due deliberation and conference, he signified his acceptance of the appointment. Only a few months were to pass before the beginning of the session with which his college duties were to commence. The interval was diligently employed in mapping out his course of instruction, selecting appropriate text books, and making special preparation in connection with the several branches which he was to teach. In October, 1849, he entered on his duties. It was a gloomy day to the new Faculty—their own number exceeded the number of matriculates, and there was no prospect of any further accessions. In truth the college was worse than prostrate. To the various causes which produced this deep depression, it is unnceessary to allude. It is sufficient to say that they were of such a nature as to render the possibility of its revival exceedingly problematical. And then there were many and strong prejudices originating in the past, which the enemies of the college with zeal and activity worthy of a better cause, employed to prevent its resuscitation. It was pronounced to be a mere political engine, to extend the principles of a particular and extreme party; and a sectarian school to indoctrinate in the creed and proselyte to the communion of one church. Its locality was decried as unhealthy and

its habits declared to be extremely dissipated. But apart from these misrepresentations, there was another cause of which no one could complain. Whilst William and Mary had from year to year been sinking, the University had been rising, and now had reached an enviable reputation, and enjoyed an abundant and merited patronage. The popular current had been diverted from the old course, and it was no easy matter to change even partially the set of the stream, or to open channels of supply in other directions. Had the Faculty fully apprehended the position in which they now found themselves, it is very questionable if either of them would have had courage to occupy it. But, the stand had been taken, and all that remained was to essay their duty to the best of their ability, and be satisfied with whatever might be the result. Mr. Washington did not attempt to deceive himself or to conceal from his colleagues, the discouragement which he felt. He saw at once that the enterprise in which they were embarked, was something approaching a forlorn hope, but as success, under such circumstances, would the more abundantly compensate the labor and perseverance which were indispensable for its attainment, he regarded the effort as worthy of his enterprise—he gave himself to his work with diligence and cheerfulness, and contributed by his example and spirit to animate those with whom he was associated. A nucleus by which other students might be gathered formed slowly—but it was forming. Hope brightened, and sooner than was anticipated, the Faculty had the satisfaction to receive from the

Board of Visitors the assurance that the resuscitation of the college was no longer experiment, but a gratifying fact. To this result, Mr. Washington's personal popularity, the attractiveness of his course of lectures, and his gentlemanly intercourse with the students largely conduced. His mode of instruction was a combination of text books accompanied by oral explanation and a series of written lectures, as a supplement. These lectures were very carefully composed, and each session revised with a special reference to their substance and style. This was the work to which he devoted himself with unceasing interest and increasing ability, until his illness arrested its progress—and that before he was satisfied that it was prepared for the press. This was a sad disappointment to him, and still more so to others who are only restrained from publishing it by his own inviolable injunction. His feelings on this subject, and his exemplary acquiescence in this frustration of the fondly cherished hope of his literary labors, may be perceived by the following extract from his private papers. "As "you are aware, I leave behind me a large mass of "manuscript nearly ready for the press; still, *it is* "*not ready*, and no one but myself can complete it, "therefore I do not wish you to attempt any publi- "cation of it. Do with the manuscript whatever "you may desire. Preserve or burn it as you may "prefer. It would have been a great satisfaction "to me to have been permitted to finish the work; "but this cannot be. I am resigned. He who "orders all things for the best, has so appointed it."

His lectures, though often revised, were not re-

written. The changes effected, were by erasure and interliniation. It would be very interesting to examine these alterations. They would no doubt indicate not only the æsthetic improvement of the writer, the widening range and increasing discrimination of his vision, and the maturing of his sound judgment in reference to the branches of his department, but, what is of yet more importance, the modification of his views in connection with Biblical History and the great truths of Revelation would be unmistakable exponents of the essential religious change, which he experienced, and which is yet to be particularly noted.

Mr. Washington had been appointed under authority of congress, to arrange and prepare for the press, the yet unfinished papers of Thomas Jefferson. It was more of a clerical than intellectual service, and required mechanical rather than intellectual labor. The drudgery was performed during his residence at Williamsburg, and in the interval of his professional duties. Contact with the dregs of the correspondence of that eminent statesman, but unscrupulous politician, and less than questionable moralist, a Spartan policy might commend. It would be hazarding nothing, to say that such was the manner of its influence on Mr. Washington. He finished the distasteful task with fidelity indeed, but with diminished admiration for the political character and aversion for the moral views of Jefferson.

In 1853, Mr. Washington prepared for the press "A Digest of the Laws, Customs, Manners and Institutions of the Ancient and Modern Nations,"

by Thomas Dew, late president of William and Mary College. Mr. Dew was Mr. Washington's predecessor in the chair of History. Regarding the "Digest" as calculated to be useful in connexion with the course, Mr. W. carefully prepared it, and with the addition of a few pages of his own, had it published in the city of New York. Another extra-collegiate service performed by Mr. Washington, was the delivery of a lecture in Richmond, before the Historical Society of Virginia. His audience, both in intelligence and number, showed the high expectation of that community. The address was admirable in substance, style and elocution. If a complimentary reception could have damaged his native modesty, it must have been hopelessly ruined by the applause of that night.

Beyond the lecture room Mr. Washington proved himself an excellent officer of the college. His delicate health did not allow him always to participate in that kind of personal supervision which is indispensable to the proper management of such an institution, but the force of his character was felt in favor of all the proprieties of social intercourse and acted almost unconsciously on the students. He was always dignified, without being distant—easily accessible, but not familiar. The few who could not be won by his worth—and there will always be some of these in every college—could not be insensible to the restraining influence of his gentlemanly bearing. In the meetings of the Faculty he was highly esteemed—his views were clear, sober and practical, and always frankly

communicated. He was ever on the side of law and order, as essential to be maintained in the training of the young, and though not careful to observe their indiscretions, or willing to annoy them by many and minute rules, yet with due allowance for the inconsideration of youth, he never flinched from strong discipline when it became proper. His counsels were wise, his decisions remarkably judicious, and his firmness perfectly reliable.

On the 8th of July, 1852, Mr. Washington was married to Cynthia Beverley, eldest daughter of the late Hon. Beverley Tucker, who was for several years on the Bench in Missouri, and subsequently Professor of Law in the College of William and Mary. Judge Tucker was a finished gentleman, an accomplished scholar, and an erudite jurist. As a lecturer he was very happy, and few, if any, completed his course without a very decided impression as to his ability, and warm regard for his personal qualities. Judge Tucker's admiration for his daughter was extraordinary but not extravagant. She deserved and returned it all. And now in her selection of a partner for life, she was blessed with one who could appreciate her worth and tenderly reciprocate her noble and devoted affection. Their prospect of an unusual measure of happiness was peculiarly bright, till it was affected by Mr. Washington's sickness. The disease—the foundation of which had been laid in Fredericksburg—and which had rendered necessary his removal from Richmond—had been abated by his temporary residence in King George, but was still lurk-

ing in his system. Though it had occasionally reappeared since he came to Williamsburg, yet at the period of his marriage his health was, to all appearance, so far re-established as to occasion no anxiety. The flattering hope proved, however, fallacious. The latent evil was still there, and upon the advance; at times so painful and exhausting as to disable him for his college duties and even indispose him for social intercourse. Every expedient which promised relief was promptly and perseveringly used—exercise and care, and abstemiousness in diet,—whatever the best medical skill in the vicinity could prescribe. Intervals of comparative ease were thus obtained, but, on the whole, the malady was gaining. How, pending the struggle, he managed to meet his class and deliver his lectures, was a wonder to all who saw his bodily infirmity, but could not measure the power of his resolution. The invigorating air of the mountain region and the alterative agency of the Virginia Springs were recommended to him. Weakened as he was he made the effort, and returned unbenefitted—indeed, with scarce strength enough left to reach his home.

The friends of Mr. Washington, thinking that a change of climate might restore his health and prolong his usefulness, had interested themselves to secure his election to the recently established chair of History at the University. It is known that a majority of the Visitors were in favor of his appointment. He was so conscious of his physical inability for the duties it would devolve upon him, that he declined allowing his name to be brought

before the Board. The same honorable and conscientious consideration determined him to resign his professorship in William and Mary College. The resignation was dated June, 1857, to be laid before the Visitors at their regular annual meeting on the ensuing 4th of July. On that occasion so many of the Visitors were prevented from being present, that a quorum was not obtained, and of course no action was taken on the resignation. Mr. Washington however regarded his connexion with the college as virtually terminated, and from that date ceased to receive any salary.

It may seem strange that under these circumstances his name should be retained in the list of the Faculty published in the advertisement for the next session. The following statement furnishes the explanation:—Mr. Washington had gone to Baltimore for the benefit of such medical skill and experience as could be there procured. He was waited on by the President of William and Mary, who urged upon him the importance of his name to the college in such a manner that Mr. Washington consented that the college should have all the aid his name could give, but that it was to be with the distinct understanding that should he recover, he would not be bound to remain there. The advantage which was thus to accrue to the college from the use of his name, was without pecuniary benefit to him. The duties of the professorship were to be discharged, and all its emoluments received by others.

Of Mr. Washington's early views and impressions on the subject of religion, nothing certain is

known. From indications which will be adverted to presently, it may be fairly inferred that he was not without light and conviction in his youth, but these do not appear to have been effectual any further than as a general restraint from those vices to which the young are prone through the evil inclinations of their own hearts, or beguiled under a mistaken idea of their manliness. His perception of the proprieties of life was quick and delicate—to its relative and social duties his attention was exemplary. To say, that as a son and brother he was unexceptionable would be meagre praise. For the follies of fashion, and the extravagance of dissipation, his intelligence and taste had no affinity. Up to the date of his removal to Williamsburg, he was moral in the usual acceptance of the term, but not religious. Indeed, after that date, it was apprehended by some that he was skeptical. This, as a positive condition of his mind, he expressly denied. He was never a disbeliever, though, as is the case with too many, he had no adequate knowledge of the contents and claims of the Word of God, and no experience of its peculiar power.

To arrest attention, and awaken serious interest in reference to religion, God, in the sovereignty of His grace, and wisdom of His providence, uses various means—none perhaps more effectually and frequently than affliction. That this was the means of predisposing the mind of Mr. Washington, to that course of solemn inquiry, which brought him, step by step, in true penitence and humble faith to Christ, as his only and all sufficient Saviour, there can be no doubt. To this result, the tone of the

society with which he was connected in Williamsburg—the faithful ministry which he attended, and over and above all, the consistent example and judicious influence of his devoted and excellent wife, largely contributed. She led him to search the Scriptures daily—gained him by her own unostentatious habit, to the use of private prayer, and so gradually brought him, though not without much conflict and many fears, to the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." Her untiring and self-sacrificing ministrations to her husband, whose sufferings were at times most intense, did not make her unmindful of his spiritual health and comfort. To promote these, every hopeful auxiliary was employed. At the close of the year 1856, she presented him with a copy of "The Christian Life, social and individual," by Peter Bayne, M. A.—an admirable book, and most happily adapted to the natural cast and present frame of Mr. Washington's mind. It bears on the inside of the cover this inscription: "A Christmas gift "for H. A. Washington from his devoted wife— "December, 1856." Immediately below, this appropriate quotation is written: "For we have not "an high priest which cannot be touched with the "feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points "tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us "therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, "that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help "in time of need."—Heb. iv. chap., 15, 16 verse.

The opposite page is covered by the following hymn, in the same hand:

"Behold, oh Lord, for I am in distress."—*Lam.* i, 20.

"Lord, I am very weak, distrest,
I languish, and can take no rest;
The remedies uncertain prove,
And heavily the moments move:
I cannot, not look up to Thee,
But oh look down, look down on me!

This flesh a heavy load I find—
Pain seems with every nerve entwined,
And little aid can man bestow,
To check my tears or soothe my woe;
I struggle to look up to Thee,
For Christ's own sake look down on me!

This flesh has oft the servant been
Of sloth and selfishness and sin,
It ought to suffer—but oh bless
Each pang to further holiness!
Longing for this, I look to Thee—
Look down, and grant holiness to me.

Do what Thou wilt with this poor frame,
Hastening to dust from which it came,
But more and more my soul refine,
Till with Thine image clothed, it shine:
Then set the captive exile free,
And let me ever be with Thee!"

SUNDAY, Dec. 21, 1856.

"The Christian Life," thus prefaced and presented for his perusal, became Mr. Washington's favorite book. He not only read, but *studied* it with liveliest interest. It gratified his taste—exercised and nourished his intellect, and comforted his heart by the attractive and genial exhibition of evangelical truth, with which it abounds. The numerous pages which specially harmonized with his own views and feelings, are bracketed and un-

derscored. The margins are pencilled with the approving notes, and sometimes with the words of humble, fervent prayer, suggested by the text. A few passages which he has marked most expressively as in accordance with his own experience, it may be proper to introduce. They sustain statements already made. They indicate that he was early the subject of religious impressions—that his true and decided concern originated at a later period, and that affliction was the means by which it was awakened.

The first passage is from Chapter III., entitled "Wilberforce, or the development of Philanthropy": "The manner of the change now wrought "on Wilberforce is of less importance to us than "its effects; but we must briefly indicate its gene- "ral aspects. In our minds the belief is deeply "seated, that the religious influence by which we "saw him impressed in boyhood, never totally lost "its effect. Like an ineffaceable writing, it lay in "his heart, during all those years when the desert "sands of vanity swept over it, hidden, perhaps "forgotten, but imperishably there; it required "but a calm hour, and a strong, skillful hand, "putting aside the sand and revealing its golden "characters, to bring the soul of Wilberforce to "acknowledge their sacred authority. On this "point, however, we do not insist; it is beyond "the reach of positive proof. He did at all events "now pause in startled earnestness; the fleeting "monitions could no longer be put aside. The "truths of God's word first forced an intellec- "tual assent; conscience, after long slumber, then

"awoke in the might of his divine commission, "and like a heavenly messenger, with a sword of "unearthly fire in the hand, defied him to advance "another step. His trouble of soul was long and "terrible. He asserted in after years, that he had "never read of mental agony more acute than his "own; and we think it were difficult to over-esti- "mate the weight of this testimony. Yet it was "not terror that chiefly dismayed him. 'It was "'not so much (these are his own words,) the fear "'of punishment by which I was affected, as a "'sense of my great sinfulness in having so long "'neglected the unspeakable mercies of my God "'and Saviour.' His soul was not altogether a "stranger to fear. The finite being who begins "to have a fixed assurance that there is not a re- "lation of perfect concord between him and the "Infinite One, may well experience a feeling of "awe; the man who hears conscience with iron "tongue, proclaiming that sin and misery are as "substance and shadow, who has any conception "of the deep drear moaning affirmative of this, "which goes like a melancholy Arctic wind over "all the centuries of the life of mankind, and who "deems it even possible that this Upas root lies "too deep in his own bosom to be eradicated by "mortal hands, may well be afraid. The instinct "of the human race echoes the Scripture words, "'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wis- "'dom.' But it was no slavish dread which urged "him on. His was no longer the reckless bear- "ing of a man of the world, arising from vacancy "of thought or sheer imbecility; nor did he change

"his attitude for that of the haughty assertor of "himself against the infinitude of power, whose "position is surely that of a maniac or demon: "but it was the light of celestial holiness burning "eternally around the throne of God in the far "deeps of heaven, that caught and fixed his eye, "it was an awakening consciousness of deep moral "wants, that filled his heart with yearning sor- "row, it was a conviction that the name of Chris- "tian had been hitherto, in his case, a mere vague "sound, or hypocritic deception, that touched him "with hallowed shame, and it was dumb amaze- "ment at the fact that the most sublime instance "of love ever given to this universe, had been un- "known and unheeded by him, which brought "him at last, a weeping suppliant, to the Mount "of Calvary."—Page 169—70.

The second passage is from Chapter II., entitled "Howard, and the rise of Philanthropy." It relates to that period of the life of Howard immediately after the death of his wife. He intended spending the winter either in the South of Italy, or at Geneva. "It seems to us that on leaving "Cardington, his mind had engaged in deep re- "flection. His boy had gone away from him; his "Harriet was sleeping silently, her tender ways "were to cheer him no more; he looked over his "past life, from which the last rays of joy's sun- "light were departing; he looked forward to an "old age, embittered by perpetual ill health. His "mind awoke, in the discipline of sorrow, to a "deeper earnestness. He felt, with sterner reali- "zation than heretofore, that the world was a

"desert, and time a dream; with a new and tre-
"mendous energy his soul rose towards the eter-
"nal kingdoms. He looked with earnest scrutiny
"within, he closed his eyes more to all around,
"and gazed upward from his knees, for the smiling
"of one countenance upon him. The intensity of
"his feelings would not comport with the prosecu-
"tion of his journey to Italy. He mused upon it
"in the strain we have indicated. He concluded
"that it was his duty to return home; and in a
"state of mind not a little agitated, proceeded in
"the direction of England."—Page 116, 117.

On the next page there is an extract from the journal of Howard, written after he had obtained peace in believing. Mr. Washington has marked very strongly the following lines: "In a little
"while thy course will be run, thy sands finished:
"a parting farewell with my ever dear boy, and
"then, oh my soul, be weighed in the balance—
"wanting, wanting! but oh, the glorious hope of
"an interest in the blood and righteousness of my
"Redeemer and my God! In the most solemn
"manner I commit my spirit into thy hand, oh
"Lord God of my salvation!"

"My hope in time! my trust through the bound-
"less ages of eternity!

"JOHN HOWARD."

And on page 119—"Lord, I believe, help thou
"my unbelief. Shall I limit the grace of God?"

In Chapter IV., headed "Thomas Chalmers," the following paragraph is marked, and also underscored, as indicated by the italics: "At about

"the age of thirty, Chalmers engaged to write the "article 'Christianity,' for the Edinburgh Ency- "clopædia. In the midst of the study and com- "position connected with this article, he was *at- "tacked by a severe illness, which confined him for "a period of four months.* It was an era in his "history; the most important era of all. It was "from it that he dated what was to him, and ap- "pears to us, the great fact of his life—*his con- "version.*"

Those who knew Mr. Washington—indeed no one who had ever looked into his calm contemplative eye, would suspect him of a blind, implicit acquiescence in the claims of the Gospel to be a divine revelation, or of being controled by mere feeling in a matter of such vital importance. With him no proof of Christianity would be adequate, unless it were "sufficient to satisfy the sober mind and to condemn the gainsayer." The divine origin of Christianity being established, no personal experience or character would content his mind, unless they could stand the test of the oracles of God. The following outline of the progress of Dr. Chalmers' mind, is marked by Mr. Washington:

"The arguments of Beattie certified him of the "reliability of man's inner beliefs; and Butler's "giant intellect gave him a glance into the real "structure of the universe. He came to the un- "alterable conviction that there was a God. This "we take to have been his first stage. He then "looked calmly at the historical evidence of the "fact that Jesus of Nazareth did perform works "competent only to Almighty power, on the plains

"of Judea; the clear and masterly logic of Paley "satisfied him of this. The other steps naturally "followed. The result was a deliberate convic- "tion, that it was a fact dubitable by no fair and "capable intellect, that the Christian religion was "positively revealed to man by the living God."

The chapter on Chalmers closes with this brief record of his death which Mr. Washington marked very distinctly:

"He returned to Edinburg about the time when "the Assembly of the Free Church met; on Friday "May 28, 1847."

"On the Sabbath evening that followed, he was "more than usually benignant and genial; but a "cloud might be seen to flit across his features, "and walking in the garden, he was heard, in "low but very earnest tones saying, 'O Father; "'my Heavenly Father!' This general aspect, "however, was one of cheerful and genial compo- "sure."

"Next day, the May morning rose over Arthur "Seat, and the Castle Rock, and the spires and "palaces of that lordly city which he loved so well. "Men rose bustling after the Sunday rest, and the "conversation in town would turn largely on the "doings of the two Assemblies, and the appear- "ance he was to make that day. But as the hours "wore on, a whisper stole over the city, stopping "for a moment every breath: Chalmers was dead. "One had entered his room in the morning, and "found him motionless; he sat there, half erect, "his head reclining gently on his pillow; the ex- "pression of his countenance that of fixed and ma-

"jestic repose." 'The land mourned for him as "Judah and Israel mourned for the good kings of "old.'"

Appended to this, on the blank of the same page, and the one following, Mr. Washington thus wrote:

"What a death! How calm, how peaceful, how "serene! oh that my latter days could be like his! "But thy will, my Heavenly Father, not mine, be "done. Into thy hands I commit myself, trusting "wholly to thy mercy. Spare—as far as may be "consistent with thy divine and all-wise purposes, "this poor tortured frame; or else give me strength "to bear thy visitation with Christian fortitude and "patience. This I implore of thy *mercy* only; "feeling that a poor sinful worm of the dust as I "am, has nothing to plead on behalf of so great a "boon. My plea is *for mercy only*—mercy through "the Redeemer's blood. And yet, what right have "*I*, to expect or ask to die the death of Chalmers? "I, who have lived only for myself, and the world "[forgetting God], to die the serene death of a "man, whose life was dedicated to thy service? I "am in thy hands, oh my Heavenly Father. Deal "tenderly, deal in mercy with thy stricken servant, "and oh! when the soul, purified by the ordeal "through which it has passed, shall be released "from its bondage, receive it into thy bosom, and "there vouchsafe to it that bliss, which is the "inheritance of all who put their trust in Thee." ["Written under great suffering Jan. 4, 1857."]

Immediately below this prayer of penitence, faith, child-like submission, and Christian hope, worthy of Chalmers himself, there is written in the hand

of one who witnessed, and as far as human sympathy and service could do so, alleviated his agonies, the following brief, but pathetic note:

"When I look back on his sufferings, I am "filled with horror.—March, 1858."

When Mr. Washington heard of the sudden death of Mr. Marcy, he said, "I should like to die "in that way, only with this difference, the Bible "on my breast instead of Shakspeare."

In the summer of 1857, leaving their infant daughter, not yet eight months old, in the care of Mrs. Tucker, at Williamsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Washington took lodgings in Baltimore, that he might avail himself of the more extensive medical experience, which the practice of a city physician would afford Whilst there, though constantly in pain, his strength improved so that he was able to be out walking, with occasional intervals of rest, for hours at a time.

In December they engaged rooms in Washington, where they were soon joined by his parents, proposing to pass the winter there. His paroxysms were now not so frequent—his general feelings less uncomfortable. Though his residence was remote from the Capitol, he could reach it in his walks, and be present at the debates in Congress. It is not surprising that his family had hope of his ultimate recovery—or that even he allowed himself the expectation. To one of his relatives he said: "I suppose now I shall get well." He told his father he was "feeling better than he had done since he was taken sick." All were bright and cheerful, and arrangements were made for returning to Wil-

liamsburg. To avoid the effects of excitement, he had requested that his friends, in calling to take leave of him, would come at different times. On the day previous to that appointed for their departure, as soon as he was dressed, he called Mrs. W. to come and read to him, but seeing she was engaged in packing up, he said, "never mind, as you are busy, I will try and read to myself this morning." He accordingly took his little copy of Ryle's Hymns, and was reading them, when his mother came in—he asked her to read the Bible and other devotional books which he was in the habit of hearing read to him daily.* He commented on the poetry. She read a hymn to him *last*—"Jesus, my strength, my hope."

At the usual hour, those who were in his chamber went down to dinner, and he was left alone. The servant carried him some simple refreshment and retired. When she returned she found him lying dying on the floor. All rushed up and soon saw how so terrible an accident had occurred. Shortly after he went to Washington, one of his brothers brought him an air gun to amuse himself. In his very nervous state, he was exceedingly annoyed by the noise made by numerous pigeons, which came upon a shed roof near the window of his chamber. He purchased from the owner the right to shoot them, but had never succeeded in killing any. He was now found, just by that window, stretched at his full length, with the blood streaming from his right eye, where the ball

*His favorite books were "The Faithful Promiser," and "The Mind of Jesus." He read them till he almost knew them by heart.

had entered. The window was hoisted a little by a log of wood, about an hand's breadth. At times, when Mrs. W. was with him, he asked her to hold the window up, only high enough for the gun to pass through, that the wind might not blow upon him. His shawl was pinned closely around him—a chair was at the window, and his hat and gloves were at hand. The cheese and crackers he had been eating were placed on the window. It was evident at a glance that in bending over to see into the yard, without exposing himself more than necessary to the current of air, the fringe of his shawl had caught in the trigger of the gun, and the contents were discharged into the brain through the eye. The physicians, who were soon on the spot, examined the gun, and found it had almost a hair trigger and that it would be set off by the slightest jar.

Mr. Washington continued to breathe for about two hours afterwards, but did not attempt to speak or give any signs of consciousness. From the instant that the ball touched the brain, he must have been utterly insensible. At fifteen minutes past five o'clock he was a corpse.

To the wife, parents, and other relatives who had just been interchanging congratulations, and animating each other by their bright and cheerful hopes, how sudden and awful the calamity! But there is a stand on which the mysterious dispensation may reflect light and comfort to the bereaved.

Was not this visitation really an answer, and perhaps the only possible answer to the admirable prayer recorded on a previous page? Mr. Wash-

ington had for years been in the furnace, and evidently his "soul had been purified by the fiery ordeal"—his once "tortured frame" had now for some time been spared the paroxysms by which the former stages of his malady were attended. He felt, and thankfully acknowledged the mitigation. But that malady was not extirpated. It admitted of unaccountable intervals of comparative ease, which occasioned hope of restoration. But in its nature it was *incurable*. It must, despite of the sanguine hope of devoted friends, resume its sad sway with augmented violence, and so progress till under repeated struggles, full of agony to the sufferer, and of anguish to all by whom they were witnessed, the prolonged conflict ended in the convulsive pangs of dissolution.

Some such course and issue nothing but a miracle could have prevented, an interposition not to be expected. Yet all these miseries he was "spared" by the appointed manner of his death, which, though not as serene, was certainly as quick and painless as the sudden departure of Chalmers, to which he humbly desired that his own might be assimilated. And so the final portion of his recorded prayer found a gracious answer—his "soul, purified by the afflictions through which it had passed," was in an instant and without the ordinary pains of dissolution, "released from its bondage," "received into the bosom of God," "to that bliss which is the inheritance of those who put their trust in Him."

At the house in Washington and in the presence of his family and a few chosen friends, a short

service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Hall, rector of the Ascension Church. The body was then conveyed to Westmoreland and interred according to the expressed wish of the deceased at Campbelton, the summer residence of the family where he had passed the sportive hours of youth, and many of the happy days of his manhood. A funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Locke, rector of the parish, on which occasion Mr. Washington's favorite hymn* was read by request as a token of his Christian faith and experience. His grave, to which the coffin was borne by his brothers, is on the green turf of the garden near the door of the dwelling, which in life he adorned and cheered by his presence, and which is now made sacred as the resting place of his mortal remains. The inscription which the great philanthropist directed for the simple slab over his grave, was chosen by Mr.

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O! Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O! Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about,
With many a conflict. many a doubt,
With fears within and wars without,
O! Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind,
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O! Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O! Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am—Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O! Lamb of God, I come.

Washington for his own. The marble which marks the spot, records the name and customary dates, and then the epitaph "my hope is in Christ."

The following extract from Mr. Washington's private papers will form an appropriate close to this sketch:

"I wish inscribed on my tomb, these words, "'my hope is in Christ.' The same which Howard "directed to be inscribed on his. I feel, indeed, "how little consistent such an epitaph must appear "with my past life—a life spent in neglect of re- "ligion and the Redeemer's blood. Still oppressed "and overwhelmed with my load of sins, my hope "*is* in Christ, in Him only—He only can wash me "clean, and upon His mercy I throw myself ab- "solutely and unreservedly. It is this state of "feeling which causes me to desire, and which I "hope justifies the inscription which I have di- "rected. It must seem strange, indeed, that such "a vile worm of the dust as I am, should dare to "have inscribed over his mortal remains, the same "sentiment with that on Howard's—a man whose "life was dedicated to God. It is only in the name "and through the intercession of Him who has "promised forgiveness to the worst of sinners, if "they only approach Him in a contrite spirit, that "I venture upon such a step. May His all-aton- "ing blood wash away my sins which are as "scarlet."

As the preceding sketch has been prepared with a view to its distribution among the personal friends of Mr. Washington, its interest to them as a Memorial will be very much increased by the addition of the following Discourse which he delivered before the Virginia Historical Society, and to which reference is made on a previous page.